

Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the *Plant Capacity Utilization* Statistics Users Respondent Base

U.S. Census Bureau
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

(1) Monthly

0.0%;	0	None
58.4%;	80	Retail Sales
47.4%;	65	Wholesale Trade
63.5%;	87	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
62.0%;	85	Housing Starts
51.8%;	71	Building Permits
48.9%;	67	New Home Sales
51.1%;	70	Value of New Construction Put in Place
36.5%;	50	Housing Completions
31.4%;	43	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
40.9%;	56	New Residential Construction
16.8%;	23	New Mobile Home Placements
57.7%;	79	Monthly Imports and Exports
75.9%;	104	Current Industrial Reports
75.9%;	104	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

Replies 137; Forms 146

(2) Quarterly

62.9%;	61	Quarterly Financial Report
86.6%;	84	Current Industrial Reports
6.2%;	6	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
13.4%;	13	Quarterly Tax Survey
7.2%;	7	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

Replies 97; Forms 146

(3) Annual

54.1%;	79	Annual Retail Trade
51.4%;	75	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
32.9%;	48	Annual Survey of Communications
35.6%;	52	Transportation Annual Survey
37.0%;	54	Service Annual Survey
52.1%;	76	County Business Patterns

30.8%;	45	ZIP Code Business Patterns
53.4%;	78	Statistics of U.S. Businesses
32.2%;	47	Characteristics of New Housing
39.0%;	57	Annual Building Permits
26.7%;	39	New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
50.7%;	74	Annual Capital Expenditures
87.0%;	127	Annual Survey of Manufactures
78.8%;	115	Current Industrial Reports
30.8%;	45	Research and Development Survey
100.0%;	146	Plant Capacity Utilization
13.7%;	20	Education Finance Survey
19.2%;	28	State Tax Collection Survey
7.5%;	11	Annual Public Employee Retirement
15.1%;	22	Annual Survey of Public Employment
15.8%;	23	Consolidated Federal Funds Report
26.0%;	38	State Government Finances
57.5%;	84	Annual Imports and Exports

Replies 146; Forms 146

II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4) 2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

85.3%;	122	Printed Publications	16.1%;	23	Diskettes
81.1%;	116	World Wide Web (Internet)	13.3%;	19	Direct (E-mail) delivery
37.1%;	53	CD-ROMs	3.5%;	5	Regular mail
19.6%;	28	FAX	5.6%;	8	Other

Replies 143; Forms 146

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- from others in the organization we use ftp site extensively.
 - Library
 - Check values by telephone
 - also use microfiche in some cases.
 - Intermediate Data Vendor.3,4,6,
 - FTP - Internet
 - Overnight Delivery of NIA data
 - CD Rom & Publications in Library
 - STAT-USA+WEFA Group

(5) 3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)

71.0%;	98	Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)
29.0%;	40	ASCII delimited
26.8%;	37	Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)
18.8%;	26	Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually
18.8%;	26	ASCII flat files
10.1%;	14	Do not manipulate data
2.2%;	3	Other

Replies 138; Forms 146

- Sas data sets
- Change to landscape small font 9
- So we can manipulate.

4. What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site? (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)

(6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:

45.3%;	58	5	16.4%;	21	3	10.9%;	14	1
13.3%;	17	4	6.2%;	8	2	7.8%;	10	Don't know

Replies 128; Forms 146

(7) b. E-mail notification:

46.1%;	59	5	14.8%;	19	3	8.6%;	11	1
16.4%;	21	4	7.0%;	9	2	7.0%;	9	Don't know

Replies 128; Forms 146

(8) c. Retrieve/display to screen:

57.0%;	73	5	18.8%;	24	3	4.7%;	6	1
13.3%;	17	4	0.0%;	0	2	6.2%;	8	Don't know

Replies 128; Forms 146

(9) d. Search:

73.7%;	101	5	10.9%;	15	3	0.0%;	0	1
12.4%;	17	4	0.7%;	1	2	2.2%;	3	Don't know

Replies 137; Forms 146

(10) e. Download complete data sets:

73.5%;	97	5	9.1%;	12	3	0.0%;	0	1
12.9%;	17	4	1.5%;	2	2	3.0%;	4	Don't know

Replies 132; Forms 146

(11) f. Download selected data:

79.4%;	108	5	7.4%;	10	3	0.0%;	0	1
10.3%;	14	4	0.7%;	1	2	2.2%;	3	Don't know

Replies 136; Forms 146

(12) g. Software help/tutorials:

28.5%;	35	5	32.5%;	40	3	6.5%;	8	1
17.9%;	22	4	8.9%;	11	2	5.7%;	7	Don't know

Replies 123; Forms 146

(13) h. Publication-quality printing:

28.2%;	35	5	19.4%;	24	3	14.5%;	18	1
18.5%;	23	4	16.9%;	21	2	2.4%;	3	Don't know

Replies 124; Forms 146

(14) i. Charts and graphs:

31.3%;	42	5	19.4%;	26	3	11.2%;	15	1
21.6%;	29	4	13.4%;	18	2	3.0%;	4	Don't know

Replies 134; Forms 146

(15) j. Geographic maps:

22.6%;	28	5	17.7%;	22	3	13.7%;	17	1
21.0%;	26	4	15.3%;	19	2	9.7%;	12	Don't know

Replies 124; Forms 146

(16) k. Other, please specify:

66.7%;	8	electronic bulletin board	33.3%;	4	Other
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Replies 12; Forms 146

- Publications like QFR to be in spreadsheet format or mdb for easy data manipulation after downloading.
 - Internet site very important to receive data from.
 - electronic
 - Update full report at release time
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(17) l. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

0.0%;	0	5	0.0%;	0	3	0.0%;	0	1
0.0%;	0	4	100.0%;	1	2	0.0%;	0	Don't know

Replies 1; Forms 146

III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

15.6%;	22	No	84.4%;	119	Yes
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Replies 141; Forms 146

(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

69.2%;	99	5+ years	47.6%;	68	latest 1 or 2 periods
66.4%;	95	trends up to 5 years	0.0%;	0	Other
49.0%;	70	trends up to 1 year			

(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

53.2%;	75	Create value-added products/services
42.6%;	60	Perform patron/client inquiries
27.7%;	39	Republish in newspaper/journal
27.7%;	39	Inform marketing decisions
23.4%;	33	Inform investment decisions
17.7%;	25	Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
6.4%;	9	Locate new sites
0.7%;	1	Other

Replies 141; Forms 146

- [none]
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(21) 8. What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

81.9%;	113	Definition of terms
67.4%;	93	Sampling and estimation methodology
65.9%;	91	Narrative text describing survey results
52.2%;	72	Survey design
4.3%;	6	None
2.2%;	3	Other

Replies 138; Forms 146

- research
 - Comparisons to earlier surveys and/or similar data from other agencies--e.g. census to BEA in one estimates.
 - Regression analysis
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(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

- We are very much interested in unadjusted counterparts of tables 7 & 8 of the FT900 release being made available on internet on the day of release. Publications like QFR also need to be made available in spreadsheet or mdb for us to further manipulate data.
- Value of the U.S. apparel protection reported in the CIR - Need URGENTLY!!
- Non-residential building permit data.
- No.
- Capital Outlays Quarterly By Industry
- No.
- "807" Production-sharing trade at the 2-digit SIC level showing total U.S. import value and the value of U.S. components sent offshore for assembly.
- Printing in ASCII, converted to 6.1. That gives complete graph - 15 columns.
- Need more monthly physical output dat for manufacturing.
- Foreign trade - exports & imports - by 4-digit (data that had been available in "Trades Employment") - without SIC (& soon NAIC), cannot compare trade with domestic activity.
- No.
- MCD Business Patterns, Massachusetts is doing away with county government, MCD income estimates.
- Non-residential building permits--number by type of building.
- Monthly historical trade data.
- Non-residential building permits data nad value of new non-residential construction part in place.
- More detailed retail information.

- Keeping ____ disaggregated data sets ____ possible that are consistent, and therefore directly comparable is very helpful.
- 1) NAICS to harmonized code concordance. 2) Timely plant capacity utilization at greatest detail level possible. 3) Windows version import data/monthly annual easy to use historical with full detail. 4) New Home sales (without land).
- We are always looking for very current information. We normally use Census data for historical trends and background.
- MSA-level data and economic projections. New projections of pollution control expenditures (PACE study)
- Current input-output reports; 5 yrs. is too old!
- YES! Bring back non-residential state/local permits authorized! This was a severe loss for interpreting local economic trends. Also, more geographic detail, more frequently.
- Wish you were more current...
- Organic Chemicals Annual was very useful before it was discontinued. We would like annual production, consumption figures made available again.
- Household Expenditure Data at State Level.
- Regional retail sales (metropolitan area) monthly non-residential building permits by metropolitan area monthly.
- We want SIC data at the product level by region. Please make every effort to provide locational tags to Canadian & Mexican data. Full country data profiles are not sufficient.
- Would like Government Finance series in print form.
- Up to date residential improvements data garage door 1 garage door openers involved in improvements.
- Quarterly Financial data that separates publishing from printing (SIC 27)
- Need more detailed annual data for 6 digit SIC codes
- Place and regional economic data sets in relation to population/race trends.
- Service Data on an annual/quarterly/monthly basis by 2,3, & 4-digit SIC!
- Website is extremely difficult to navigate.
- Non-residential permits!!
- The annual survey of manufacturers needs to be in ASCII or pdf format; as well as pdf. We spend too many hours re-entering the data.
- Crime--not all areas of the U.S. participate in their state uniform crime reports program, so it becomes difficult to make informed decisions.
- Elimination of Group II sales data and problems
- Imports and exports by 4-digit SIC. Very important--in print. Publication form--quarterly.
- Geographic Area Retail Sales
- MSA retail sales
- Monthly service sector sales counterpart data state to retail, wholesale, and manufacturing shipments.
- The more history, the better.
- Non-residential construction data outside California! Bring it back!
- We have a need for long historical time series and for long-term forecasts.
- Commercial Building Permits County level on a timely basis.
- Non-residential building permit data collection should be restored by state and metro area!
- Report on production of industrial fabrics
- Yes-I need non-residential construction series (commercial, industrial, etc.) on a geographic basis--as used to be done!

IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: <http://www.census.gov/NAICS>.

(24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

83.7%; 118 4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
40.4%; 57 3-digit industry groups
39.7%; 56 2-digit major groups
38.3%; 54 Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
2.8%; 4 NA (don't use SIC-based data)
5.0%; 7 Other

Replies 141; Forms 146

- Individual Products 7-Digit level
 - HS
 - NAICS, Duns' Product Codes
 - Greater detail when available
 - The greatest level available--CIR level. Product level.
 - sub-groups within 4-digit
 - Product Codes
-

(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

15.5%; 22 I was unaware of this
30.3%; 43 I am partially aware, but lack details
54.2%; 77 I am aware and understand some implications

Replies 142; Forms 146

12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

90.9%; 90 A brochure that explains NAICS 33.3%; 33 Conference announcements
73.7%; 73 NAICS implementation plans 4.0%; 4 Other

Replies 99; Forms 146

- A copy
 - H.S. Concordances
 - I am awaiting CD-ROM!
-

(27) No Thanks -

72.1%; 31 I will check the Census Bureau's web site (www.census.gov/naics)
27.9%; 12 I don't need more information about NAICS

Replies 43; Forms 146

V. USER PROFILE

Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13. Type of organization.

45.8%;	65	Business	4.9%;	7	Individual
20.4%;	29	Government	2.8%;	4	Media
14.8%;	21	Academic/Research	0.7%;	1	Library
6.3%;	9	Association	4.2%;	6	Other

Replies 142; Forms 146

-
- Information and consulting firm
 - Consulting
 - Market Research/Publishing
 - Economics Consulting
 - Consultant
 - Library (University)
-

(29) 14. Do you work in your organization's library?

30.1%;	43	Yes	69.9%;	100	No
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Replies 143; Forms 146

(30) 15. What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

76.3%;	103	None	2.2%;	3	Census Information Center
7.4%;	10	State Data Center	11.9%;	16	Other
2.2%;	3	Business/Industry Data Center			

Replies 135; Forms 146

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- Industry & Business Analysts in Maryland
 - user of Census data
 - Special Sworn Employee
 - Richmond Public Library, BST Dept. 101 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219
 - Former Advisory Committee member and CES researcher.
 - Employed by US DOC/BXA
 - Cooperator in disseminating permits authorized data
 - Customer
 - Depository
 - Affiliate Data Center
 - Regional planning agency.
 - Heavy user
 - GPO Depository
 - Associate Data Center
 - They do work for our Division
 - Federal Depository Library
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(35) 20. May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

80.4%;	111	Yes	19.6%;	27	No
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Replies 138; Forms 146

(36) Question 21. Remarks:

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- It would be nice to have all reports available in spreadsheets format. For any publication reports that contain large tables and data, mdb file format would be an ideal too.
 - We have been relying on your MA32C for 20 years. Keep up your outstanding service.
 - I've been trying to get Census data since 1991. I've use NTDB CD-ROM, StatUSA CD and now the Internet site. As soon as I learn the system really well-you change it. After I loaded the StatUSA CD--The NTDB CD would not work. We need older figures going back to the 1980's. It's impossible to run NTDP, then StatUSA on the same PC. I really hate the StatUSA CD.
 - 1). It is important to be able to retrieve data in easy to use formats (spreadsheet or ascii)- "pdf" formats are convenient to print, but difficult to use. 2). Please see question 9. 3). We are concerned about the discontinuity in time series data that will occur with NAICS. The 1987 SIC change was a significant problem-NAICS will likely be much worse. Any help from Census (bridges, publication of data in both classifications) would be a great help to data users.
 - I support the move toward Internet data delivery because it should make data available faster and at a lower cost. the challenge is to make it easy for the widest variety of data users as possible to retrieve the data they need.

Example: I use County Business Patterns to track number of establishment for certain industries by state. I believe that users on the Internet currently can select only one year at a time and one state at a time. the ability to put together summary tables based on selections would help a lot.

- A published paper version should always be made available for purchase to the public. Information being available on the internet is nice, yet it is a completely different animal than having a hard copy version of the information. An example: I can receive my news off the internet, but I still prefer to get my newspaper in the morning for reading at my leisure away from a computer.
- When is 1997 Census to be available? Please keep as much of the data in print as possible-- Thanks!
- Whenever I have used statistics & required assistance I have found the staff both friendly & efficient. I remain very impressed with your web site & service provided.
- Census data has proven invaluable to in-depth country comparisons of productivity in sectors extremely valuable organization.

Please keep going with the detailed data, comparable time series (IS NAICS comparable?) and aggregate numbers.

- Your credibility is a great strength.
- --Strongly support new PACE (Pollution Abatement and Control Expenditures) studies

--New BEA projections are needed (GSP, MSA-level,etc).

- DOC DOES GREAT JOB. HAVE USED PRODUCTS/SERVICES FOR REFERENCE MANY TIMES.

THANKS.

- We serve a varied clientele (academic, business, government, and private citizens) and work across many subject. Census data are absolutely vital to us. Our biggest need is for more geographic area detail more frequently (state, county, place, if possible). Users often do not understand the 5 yr. gaps and lag time for the major Economic Surveys that offer such detail, much less the 10 yr. decennial cycle. The internet is a great help in speeding "publication", but we find access is not yet universal. We still download and print entire documents for guide reference and historical purposes. I am concerned about just how long the electronic media will remain accurate and usable as technology changes. How will the Bureau deal with these problems?
- Stat-USA is an extremely useful tool for retrieving data. I would like to see more files in spreadsheet format and the ability to download particular segments.
- Would like more detail on Semiconductor Industry (SIC 3674) and SIC 3661 & 3669 communications equipment. Also, computers SIC 3575,3577,3578, 35,79. Would like more details on subcategories in terms of sales dollars and total units sold.
- Data validity in the NAICS project is one of our concerns. Has any provision been for cross checks of the data?
- I received the survey on August 7th-so was not able to return it in the time requested!

- Our office is very interested in any information on the implementation of NAICS-as our researchers will be using it a great deal.
- We look forward to working with you on the upcoming Census.
- I appreciate receiving this survey.
- I think the advancements on the Web over the past few years have been excellent. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has put much of this data in raw form on their FTP site. I'd like to see the Census Bureau make the FTP site more accessible and have more information.
- We are in the site selection/economic development function. Census data is absolutely crucial to our function, especially the ability to compare areas.
- Please update my address in your records. Thanks!
- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.
- More documentation and instructions for obtaining data from gohper directories would be helpful.
- Good to see this survey! Dealing with you via the Internet and mail is going well. However, trying to reach people over the phone is still a major headache.

Figure 1: